4. It might enable the Allies to capture Pola, the principal Austrian naval base, thereby reducing the submarine menace in the Mediterranean.

5. No additional demand on shipping transport is involved.

6. The Allies would be fighting on enemy territory.

The Conference refer this question for immediate examination by the Ministers, in conjunction with the military representatives, more particularly from the point of view of the form which the French and British co-operation should take."

I explained that the last sentence referred to the question whether General Gadorna would require guns only or infantry divisions as well.

According to a note taken at the time, M. Briand pointed out

" how great was the organisation needed, under modern conditions, for an offensive. It was, he said, nothing less than a great industrial

Briand prefers organisation. *He further pointed out that Mvelkplan the Staffs of the Allies had recently worked out their plans at Chantilly ; and, that the preparations for carrying them out were now far advanced. In view of this he questioned whether it would be wise to change the plan now. M. Briand said that General*

Nivelle reported that the German forces had, to a considerable extent^ been used up> and that they were not nearly so thick on the ground as they used to be. Having regard to the ascendancy recently shown by French troops